

Application Number 10/047,950

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, applicant elects, with traverse, Group I claims 1-13 drawn to a method of business comprising inventory management as defined by the Examiner.

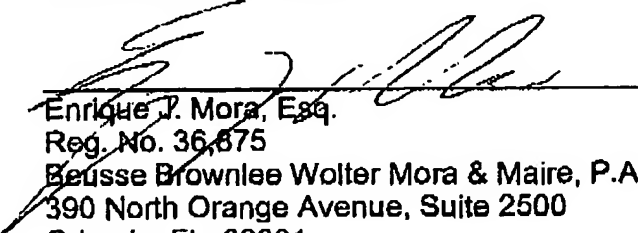
Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action. Applicant considers the present invention to be clearly defined by claims 1 through 27.

Section 121 of the Patent Statute allows a restriction requirement in the event that two independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single patent application. Applicant respectfully submits that claim Groups I, II and III set forth by the Examiner are not independent and distinct. There is a clearly disclosed relationship among the three distinct inventions identified by the Examiner and it would not be unduly burdensome to examine all claims 1-27 together.

Notwithstanding applicant's election of the claims of Group I as set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that a complete examination of the application in compliance with Section 131 be performed. In the alternative, applicant respectfully requests that the claims of at least Groups I and II be examined together.

If a telephone conference will assist in expediting examination of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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